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12 July 1988 OCA: 88-2336

NOTE FOR: The Director

FROM: John Helgerson

Director of Congressional Affairs

SUBJECT: Status of Draft Executive Order on Security

- l. I have learned that Representatives Stokes and Hyde may ask you about the status of the Proposed Executive Order on Security which would govern access to classified information. The Committee, but especially Representative Beilenson, wants to see the President sign the Order before the end of this Administration. Mr. Beilenson intends to write a letter to Colin Powell urging him to use his influence to get the Executive Order signed. He would like your support.
- 2. The draft Executive Order has been under consideration since 1984 by the NSC and includes provisions which would:
  - --Set investigative standards for security background investigations.
  - --Establish the first uniform policy for access to classified information by all persons employed in the Executive.
- 3. We strongly support the need for an Executive Order in this area, but we require some revisions. In a 20 May letter to the National Security Council, Bob Gates recommended that an NSC meeting at the staff level be convened of the effected agencies to resolve all outstanding issues related to the draft Order. He added that should these issues not be resolved, they should be presented to the President for a final decision.
  - 4. The major issues that we would like to see resolved are:
    - --The sweeping oversight granted to the Information Security Oversight Office. These provisions would conflict with your statutory responsibilities to protect intelligence sources and methods.
    - -- The mandated set of administrative appeal procedures for the revocation of security clearances which must be followed unless the DCI personally certifies otherwise. Because there is nothing in current law requiring such procedures and certification, we view this as an intrusion on the discretionary authorities of the DCI.

5. You can inform Representatives Stokes and Hyde that the Agency is not responsible for the delays in resolving these and other issues. Colin Powell has been provide the language which will exempt the Agency from the oversight and administrative appeal procedures contained in the Order. Rather the delays seem to lie with the NSC staff.

John L. Helgerson

cc: DDCI